



New Malden
Methodist Church
*At the **heart** of the High Street*

Spotlight

January 2022

Contents

Message from Karl
Church Family News
Summary of December Sunday Notices
Creative Arts Group
New Year at Wesley's
Music in New Malden
Christmas at NMMC
Ponderings from Eleanor Roberts
Winter Photos
Next Issue
And I said to the man
Diary Dates
Circuit Plan



Message from Karl

Happy new year!

At the beginning of a new year, I often find I have mixed feelings. On the one hand, there is a degree of excitement in looking forward to what the coming twelve months might bring, but also a sense of trepidation on the other. Following the ups and downs of 2021, I hope this year will be brighter and less turbulent, but I suppose time will tell.

It has become our practice to begin a new calendar year by renewing our covenant with God, in a tradition which goes back to the Wesley brothers. A covenant in this sense is a relationship based on faith, which holds us fast to the God who loves us more than we could ever imagine. It offers an opportunity to reflect on the year that is past, and to look to the future with hope.

The Covenant Service is a challenging one, because our part in this relationship cannot be based on half-heartedness; rather, the Covenant Prayer reminds us that God's love demands, as Isaac Watts put it in his famous hymn, our souls, our lives, our all. We may struggle with the Prayer as it asks a lot of us, and particular clauses can be interpreted in various ways, not all of which are helpful. Yet, at heart, it is about commitment in response to life-giving love.

So, as we set out on the journey of 2022, I pray that you will discover more of God's love for you, whatever this year may bring.

Every blessing,
Karl



Church Family News

Karl visited **Jenny Reid** before Christmas and she is doing as well as can be expected. She is unlikely to be able to get to church for now and would appreciate your prayers for her and Michael.

We are pleased to tell you that Angy Stagg had her hip op on Monday 13th December. We send love and prayers to Angy for a speedy recovery and look forward to her running around again soon.

Our love and prayers are with those who have been bereaved recently and to the wider church community who will mourn and miss old friends.

Clive Edwards lost his sister **Ruby**, who had a seizure and passed away on 30th November. Her funeral was held on 6th January.

Some older members will remember **Pauline and Philip Downard** who worshipped here some years ago. Pauline passed away on Sunday 31st October and was laid to rest on Thursday 25th November next to Catherine, their daughter who died at the young age of 27.

John Harry, another old friend, passed away on 1st December after a short stay in hospital. John's funeral was held on 21st December.

Summary of December Sunday Notices

A Request for more Knitting

The request comes from the Matron of A&E Kingston Hospital. They desperately need beany hats for the elderly patients who come into the department suffering from hypothermia. The patient can then take the hat home with them when they leave. This would be an ongoing project and I would collect the hats and get them to Kate. Thank you. Stella



Church Directory

An up-to-date version of the Church Directory is now available. Copies have to be signed for to comply with GDPR regulations so please come and see Sarah or Hilary if you would like a copy. Please destroy your old directory in a secure manner, or bring in for shredding in the office.

Christmas Fair

Thank you so much to everyone who took part in any way in the Christmas Fair from setting up, serving, clearing up and buying! The magnificent total raised was £882.48 which will be split between Stand By Me, an international children's charity and Staywell at Raleigh House, New Malden.

Creative Arts Group

I am hoping, with the help of Stella, to restart the Creative Arts Group in January. This will be held on the third Thursday in each month from 2pm – 4pm.

This is for anything creative from art, card making, glass painting, collage, knitting and maybe even calligraphy. This could be in the same session together so we can all learn and enjoy something new, or individual crafts. It will be very informal, with tea/coffee and biscuits thrown in, and an opportunity to socialise and switch off for a couple of hours.

The first meeting will be Thursday 20th January so do please come and give it a whirl. If you think you will be interested, it would be useful to let myself or Stella know so that we have a little idea of the support there might be.



Doreen Downey

New Year at Wesley's



Hilary and Mona wearing big smiles (honest!), ready to welcome customers, new and old.

We were very happy to see Monika recently, catching up with church friends.



Music in New Malden

The recent high Covid Omicron infection rates have taken their toll on some of our performers who are now having to isolate, which makes even recording a stream for our YouTube channel impractical for the time being. Reluctantly, therefore, we are postponing our first concert (which would have been on Sunday 9th January) until later on this season. We will keep you posted on the revised date.



The dates and programmes of our three other spring 2022 concerts (all on Sundays at 3pm) at present are:

13th February 2022 (a baroque programme with Original Blend - Bach, Handel, Telemann)

13th March 2022 (violin-piano duo, Anja Jamsek and Min Young Bae)

10th April 2022 (Jane Wilkinson and the New Malden Community Choir).

We will keep you informed about arrangements for these, including the sale of tickets, as the situation regarding live concerts becomes clearer over the coming weeks.

With our best wishes for a healthy and musical 2022!

Music in New Malden

Christmas at NMMC

A Lad in a Manger

This year's nativity took place amid the discovery of new variant of Covid, rising cases in London, and more than a bit of déjà vu - but the church pulled together like only the church can, to put on an entertaining performance of A Lad in a Manger (geddit?). A kind of cross between a panto and a nativity (oh no it wasn't!) the cast were masked up and seated apart in a semi-circle. The set was minimalist but the headgear on display certainly wasn't and a fine and wide range of tea towels, pillowcases, dressing up hats etc were on show. Festus aka Widow Swanky had found a particularly impressive wig and can expect a call from Wimbledon pantomime any day now, or perhaps a call from Battersea Zoo asking if they can have their long-haired albino guinea pig back.

Following the star, a circuitous route to the manger wasn't allowed, and Mary and Joseph's donkey didn't walk them around the church while we sang, but the story was told, there was audience participation (lo, Joe!), and the right songs were sung. It's amazing what was achieved in a short space of time in less than ideal circumstances so credit to all those who made it happen.

Caroline Auty

Cast (pictured overleaf from left to right): **Angel Gabriel** - Becky Haines; **Joe** - Gareth Morton; **Mary** - Sarah Moore; **Shepherds** - Amy Jewell & Emma Haines; **Widow Swanky's daughter** - Grace Mensah; **Widow Swanky** - Festus Mensah; **Three kings** - Robert Elves, Liz Edwards, Sue Abell; **King Herod** - Jennifer Morton; **Salami, Herod's servant** - Isabel Elves.



Community Carol Singing

A group of enthusiastic singers entertained shoppers in the High Street on Saturday 18th December beautifully accompanied by Peter Bullett on keyboards with assistance from Caroline Auty on trumpet. £101.00 was raised to be divided among the 21 charities represented in the Christmas Tree Festival.



Christmas Tree Festival

We were very happy to be able to put on the festival again. 21 different charities were represented and whilst the amounts raised were not quite as high as in previous years, awareness was raised and it was appreciated by the people who visited that the festival was happening.



The Scouts made houses to decorate their tree for Crisis.



Ponderings from Eleanor Roberts

So, after 20 years living in New Malden (that's 42 years for Andy!), and with the twins now settled at university, we will soon be leaving for northern pastures new – hopefully, if all goes to plan, in either mid-Feb or April, depending which estate agent you believe! Coming from Sheffield originally, it's been a dream of mine to settle in the Peak District for a long time (hence my "unusual" e-mail address, allhailthegloriousnorth@hotmail.com) Whilst this move has been a long time coming, it's still sad – and it's made me reflect on who and what means the most to me in New Malden. Unsurprisingly, the church and coffee bar and all the lovely church family here has come out as the firm winner. It's you that have given me a deep sense of belonging, and you I will really miss.



Like a good sermon, I guess it's been a journey for 4 stages!!

Stage 1: Arriving. 18 years ago I first staggered exhausted through the coffee bar's doors, armed with a pram and two very sweet (yes, I'm biased I know!) small premature babies, looking for a peaceful haven and a modicum of sanity. Greeted warmly by Andrea and Shirley (for me ever after, "the A-team"), the coffee bar has felt like a second home ever since. Many cups of squash and homemade cakes later, Anna and John have loved this place. Memories include them gurgling happily in the high chairs with a plentiful supply of toys and books; making charts with them to award "points for content, colour, and overall niceness" to the Christmas trees each December; doing traffic surveys through the window when their primary school had to shut for several weeks; doing the sheep trail, especially their nervous excitement at discovering that we were really allowed to go into the police station to find a sheep, appropriately called Bobby; and enjoying the pantomimes in a slightly bewildered way! (Can I just flag up particular thanks to Jean and the late Bernard Bedford, who were such a loving support to me when there was a distressing period of school bullying in Year 4). Anna loved being in Guides here, and in the more recent years blossomed as a volunteer helper at Rainbows.

Stage 2: Fellowship-ing. A Korean mum at the school gates first invited me to try out the Wednesday morning fellowship group, run by Donald Finnan (lovingly also known as "the Holy Father"!) Wow - that's all I can say! Despite being a Christian since I was 16 years old, this was the first time I'd found a group where I was able to be completely myself, laugh a lot, be vulnerable and verbalise all those difficult questions where it'd never felt safe or perhaps appropriate to do so before (poor Donald I hear you say – ha ha ha!) There was such an accepting atmosphere of shared tears and laughter, and most of all I just kept experiencing God's warming, healing, challenging presence through the diverse people, and most of all through Donald's wise and gentle leadership. I really love that man, and that group. Thank you.

Stage 3: Coffee-ing. Carol Dadds suggested I might enjoy helping behind the coffee bar, which was a revelation to me, as I didn't go to this church and wasn't even a Methodist, but an Anglican interloper! That was a great way to get to know more people - though I have to say that I don't think dear Reg was very impressed by my frequent ability to overfill the coffee machine and send boiling water flying everywhere! Thankfully nobody died, and I wasn't sacked!! (Having said that, I did have to call an ambulance once when one customer collapsed in the disabled toilet – but I don't think that was anything to do with my coffee!) Andy also joined the rota after taking early retirement, and we've had a lot of fun wearing our smart pinnies and causing happy chaos there!

Stage 4: Homing. I started coming to services at NMMC on Sundays about three years ago, when Anna decided she didn't feel comfortable any more at the church we'd been based at for years. I

have a lot of past baggage about saying I “belong” to a particular church, rather than to all Christian churches. So when Karl approached me to consider “becoming a church member,” firstly I instinctively panicked and wanted to run away, and secondly I had no idea what he was talking about! (These odd Methodists, you know!) But the more I talked with Karl and mulled the idea over, the more there didn’t seem to good reason to say no. After all, NMMC had felt like my spiritual home for years. And to me, Karl is just someone who oozes God’s love to others. So with the valiant Molly by my side, we both took the plunge (not literally!) and became members together.

So, thank you NMMC for being a second home to us in New Malden. Thank you for the sense of belonging to the glad, the sad, and the slightly mad church family here! Please do stay in touch with us (see earlier e-mail). You will always be in our hearts.

With much love and deep thanks, Eleanor Roberts x

I am sure that everyone would join me in adding that Eleanor and Andy will be hugely missed but we wish them all the very best in their new life in the ‘glorious north’. Sarah

Winter Photos

As well as all the other Christmas photos in this issue, the following were also received:



Ollie (Isabel’s puppy) appreciating
the carol singing
by Alan Vincent



Nicky Horton
enjoying her
last
Christingle
service with
her family, on
Zoom in
2020.

Lost Property
by Alan Vincent



And a selection from Karl from his Christmas ramblings



North Bank of the Thames

From Christmas
at Kew



From Christmas at Kew –
A dome reflected in water



Sunset over Richmond Park



Twilight at Kingston Bridge

Next Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in longhand through my door or the church door 😊). I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, lockdown experiences, news of members, advice for life, poems, photos, recipes etc.

The deadline for the February issue will be Wednesday 26th January.

The first ever cordless phone was created by God.

He named it “Prayer”..

It never loses its signal and U never have to recharge it,

Use it anywhere...!

And I said to the man

This poem by Minnie Louise Haskins, was quoted by George VI in his Royal Christmas message of 1939 and was read by Mark Wakelin at the service here on 2nd January 2022.

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".
And he replied:
"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".
So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.
And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still:
What need our little life
Our human life to know,
If God hath comprehension?
In all the dizzy strife
Of things both high and low,
God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will
is best. The stretch of years
Which wind ahead, so dim
To our imperfect vision,
Are clear to God. Our fears
Are premature; in Him,
All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until
God moves to lift the veil
From our impatient eyes,
When, as the sweeter features
Of Life's stern face we hail,
Fair beyond all surmise
God's thought around His creatures
Our mind shall fill.

Diary Dates - January

Saturday 8 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Wesley's – Women's Institute
Tuesday 11 th	2.30pm – 4.00pm	Bereavement Café
	7.30pm	Wives & Friends – Members' evening
Wednesday 12 th	8.00pm	Circuit Meeting
Saturday 15 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Wesley's – NMMC – NHS Care Packages
Monday 17 th	7.30pm	Kingston District Chamber Music Society Concert
Thursday 20 th	2.00pm – 4.00pm	Creative Arts Group
Saturday 22 nd	10.00am – 4.00pm	Tamil Festival
Monday 24 th	7.30pm	Wives Friends - Meal 'In' – back kitchen
Tuesday 25 th	7.30pm	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service, here at NMMC
Saturday 29 th	10.00am – 12 noon	Wesley's – Our Woofs & Meows UK-KR

Circuit Plan

		KINGSTON 10.30am	SURBITON HILL 10.30am	NEW MALDEN 10.30am	CHESSINGTON* 10am
09 January	am	Lorraine Webb	Stan Brown: Cov	Karl Rutledge: Cov	Mark Wakelin: Cov
	pm	No Service	4.30pm Stan Brown PP	No Service	No Service
16 January	am	Stan Brown	Karl Rutledge	David Fullbrook	Mark Wakelin: C
	pm	No Service	5pm Zoom Service	No Service	No Service
23 January	am	Karl Rutledge	Stan Brown	Duncan Lloyd	Linda Davis
30 January	am	Jilly Bridges	Denis Vernon	Stan Brown	Karl Rutledge
06 February	am	David Fullbrook	Stan Brown	Karl Rutledge	Paul Han: HC
	pm	No Service	4.30pm Stan Brown PP	No Service	No Service
13 February	am	Stan Brown	Judith Wakelin	Lorraine Webb	Mark Wakelin
20 February	am	Karl Rutledge: HC	Stan Brown HC	Hannah Chun	Mark Wakelin: C
	pm	No Service	5pm Zoom Service	No Service	No Service
27 February	am	Mark Wakelin	Stan Brown	Karl Rutledge: HC	Denis Vernon
* Korean Language Service at Chessington on Sundays at 12.00 noon led by Rev Paul Han					
Worship Books		Methodist Worship Book (Holy Communion only)	Methodist Worship Book (complete)	Methodist Worship Book (complete)	Methodist Worship Book (Holy Communion only)
Bibles		GNB	NIV	NRSV	NIV
Music (Projection by arrangement)		Singing the Faith Songs of Fellowship 1-3	Singing the Faith Hymns & Psalms Let's Praise 1-2	Singing the Faith	Hymns & Psalms Songs of Fellowship 1-3
Notes & Abbreviations					
AA: All Age Worship; BC: Blue Christmas; C: Contemporary Service; Ca: Carol Service; CE: Christmas Eve Service; CG: Christingle; CL: Carols by Candlelight; Cov: Covenant Service; G: Gift Service; HC: Holy Communion; LA: Local Arrangement; M: Membership Service; N: Nativity; PP: Praise Party; S: Short Service/Morning Prayer; WS: Watchnight Service					
Holy Communion: to be arranged locally at the discretion of each church and Minister					
Ministers' Day Off: Stan: Saturday; Karl: Monday. Mark works part-time and can usually be contacted Sunday, Monday and Tuesday					
Circuit Meeting: 8pm on 12 January at New Malden					
<i>Note: Preachers – please send requests for the next Plan to the Circuit Office by 11 January 2022</i>					

Some good advice from the Metropolitan Police

Scammer impersonating Police targeting elderly and vulnerable people locally.

Person calls claiming to be a Detective from 'Serious Fraud Department stationed at a Police Station'.

May provide reference numbers, confirm your address and claim your bank account is involved in crime.

Asks you to call 999 immediately - which directs you to another scammer. They then ask you to provide sensitive information which allows them to access your money.

- Police will NEVER phone a victim to inform them that they are a victim of fraud.
- Police will NEVER ask for personal banking information.
- Should Police need any other information it will be requested face to face where the officer would be in possession of a valid Police Warrant Card or in full uniform.